

35. An insert earphone comprising:

a receiver for transducing electrical energy received into sound energy, the receiver having a sound outlet port extending from an end thereof, the sound outlet port having a first portion and a second portion, the receiver having a radial dimension and at least one outer surface;

an insert formed from a resilient material and having an uncompressed thickness; and a unitary housing having a hollow body portion, the hollow body portion having at least one inner surface, a radial dimension, and an end wall, and a hollow elongated tubular portion extending from the end wall, the radial dimension of at least a portion of hollow body portion being less than the sum of the radial dimension of the receiver and twice the uncompressed thickness of the insert, and upon assembly, a first portion of the insert being disposed and compressed between the end of the receiver and the end wall, second and third portions of the insert being disposed and compressed between the at least one outer surface of the receiver and the at least one inner surface of the hollow body portion, the first portion of the sound outlet port directly contacting and extending into the hollow elongated tubular portion, and only the second portion of the sound outlet port being flanked by the insert, the insert thereby mounting the receiver in the hollow body portion and assisting to provide an acoustic seal between the hollow body portion and the elongated tubular portion of the housing.

36. A method of assembling an insert earphone comprising a receiver having a sound outlet port extending from an end thereof, a unitary housing having a hollow body portion, the hollow body portion having an end wall and an open end, and a hollow elongated

tubular portion, and a resilient insert having a substantially central opening therein, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the sound outlet port of the receiver through the opening of the resilient insert; inserting the receiver, sound outlet port first, and the resilient insert as a unit into the open end of the hollow body portion;

moving the inserted receiver toward the end wall such that first and second portions of the resilient insert are folded back in a direction toward the open end and compressed between the receiver and at least one inner surface of the hollow body portion; and

matingly engaging the sound outlet port of the receiver with the hollow elongated tubular portion such that a third portion of the resilient insert is compressed between the end of the receiver and the end wall.

37. The method of claim 36 further comprising the step of operatively coupling an electrical energy source to the receiver.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the insert earphone further comprises an end cap, and further comprising the step of securing the end cap to the open end of the hollow body portion.

REMARKS

Claims 22-38 are now pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 22-34 presently stand rejected per the Office Action mailed March 2, 1998. Applicant will address each one of the outstanding rejections separately below and demonstrate that claims 22-38 are allowable.